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 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Turkey

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO.

SUBJECT Clash Between Turkish and Russian
 Border Troops; Turkish Military
 Preparations

This document is hereby registered to
 CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
 letter of 13 October 1978 from the
 Director of Central Intelligence to the
 Archivist of the United States.
 Next Review Date: 2003

13 November 1946

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ORIGIN

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Border Incident:

1. A Russian company of Azerbaijan soldiers recently crossed the Turco-Russian border in the district of Kars near Karaköse, and penetrated 12 kilometers within Turkish territory. An encounter took place between the Soviet troops and the Turkish frontier guard which resulted in the death of ten Russian soldiers and one Turkish officer. The commander of the Russian border forces explained that the Russians had crossed the border by mistake and were under the belief that they were still on Soviet territory. Apologies were made, and the bodies of the ten Azerbaijan soldiers were returned.
2. This incident created a panic in Kars and Erzurum, where it was believed that war had broken out. Telegrams were sent to Istanbul merchants, urging them to hold up all further shipments.

Military & Naval Preparations:

3. It is reported that considerable stocks of war materials are being routed from Ankara to the strongly fortified Irmak line which extends through the mountain area of Erzurum. During World War I, the Russians never succeeded in their attempts to break through this area, at that time much less heavily fortified than today. [redacted] who has just returned to Istanbul from this area, stated that in case of war the General Staff is prepared to abandon the plains between Kars and Ardahan and to withdraw to the Erzurum line, which forms the center of the defense across the Caucasus.* At the time when the Russians occupied the Iranian portion of Azerbaijan, the Turkish General Staff was afraid of an attack which might come from the plains/Van and, therefore, laid plans for adequate precautions.
4. It is also reported that medical supplies sufficient to take care of about 200,000 wounded have arrived in the Eastern Provinces from Ankara. Military hospitals, each with a capacity of 1,000 patients, have been erected in various parts of the area, and the entire region has been placed on a war footing.

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Comment: [redacted] disseminated on 5 November 1946, reports that Turkish troops have evacuated the Kars/Ardahan area to positions behind the Turco-Russian border of World War I.

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CLASSIFICATION

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ADSO	x	A DEF.	x	FBT	WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRICT	ING MUST BE	
DADSO		FBK		FBV	SPDS		
EXEC.		FBL		FBX	SPDS		
CONTROL		FBM	x	FBZ	SCB		
PLANS		FBP		SEDA	TBR		

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5. Heavy artillery, reported to include 280 millimeter Cletzac (sic. halftrack?) units, has been installed in the fortifications at the entrance of the Bosphorus in the mountain passes beyond Rumeli Hisar and Anadolu Cavak. Additional artillery has been installed in the wooded heights of Kirecburnu.
6. According to a competent military man, a third line of submarine mines has been added to the already existing two mine fields at the entrance of the Bosphorus.

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